

CLAIMS

1. An orthoalkylation catalyst for phenols, produced by calcining a catalyst precursor comprising basic magnesium carbonate (a) and magnesium oxide (b), wherein
5 the basic magnesium carbonate (a) and the magnesium oxide (b) are mixed together at a weight ratio ((a)/(b)) of 20/80 to 80/20.

2. The orthoalkylation catalyst for phenols as claimed in claim 1, wherein the basic magnesium carbonate
10 (a) is heavy magnesium carbonate.

3. The orthoalkylation catalyst for phenols as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the magnesium oxide (b) is light burned magnesia.

4. The orthoalkylation catalyst for phenols as
15 claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst precursor further comprises manganese oxalate (c) in an amount of 0.1 to 10% by weight based on the total (100% by weight) of basic magnesium carbonate (a) and magnesium oxide (b).

5. The orthoalkylation catalyst for phenols as
20 claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst precursor is molded before calcination and the calcination is performed at 300 to 500°C in the absence of molecular oxygen.

6. The orthoalkylation catalyst for phenols as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the orthoalkylation
25 catalyst has a catalytic surface area of 25 to 500 m²/g.

7. A process for producing an orthoalkylated phenol,
which comprises performing a vapor phase reaction of a
phenol with an alkyl alcohol in the presence of the
orthoalkylation catalyst claimed in any of claims 1 to 6
5 so that an orthoalkylated phenol is obtained.